

A NOTE FROM GUERNSEY. — Mid-summer weather here was as poor as in England. It is pleasing to report that our cliff colonies of *M. cinxia* (L.) continue, though the butterfly is not common. It is the only fritillary here.

A colleague, Dr. R. LePelley, bred through the rare Pyrale *Epischmia banksiella* Rich. in 1977 and I have also bred it this year from Golden Samphire, a local plant on the Island.

A surprising migrant visitor in August was *Lozotaeniodes formosanus* (Geyer), the first Guernsey record. In early September, in the company of Dr. de Worms, we took at light several *Scotopteryx peribolata* (Hübner). Both sexes appeared in a cliff locality and also in my garden away from the coast. At the end of September I took a fresh *Hypena obsitalis* (Hübner) fluttering in a garden shed. This was well before the October wave of migrants and I wonder if the moth breeds here. When the anticyclone arrived the Mediterranean insects came with it, including *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.), one *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner), one worn *Agrius convolvuli* (L.) and one *Heliothis peltigera* (D. & S.). Several *Palpita unionalis* (Hübner) and one *Rhodometra sacraria* (L.) arrived during this spell which lasted from 9th to 20th October. I saw no accompanying butterflies however, and it has been a poor autumn for Vanessaids. — Dr. T. N. D. PEET, Le Chene, Foret, Guernsey, C.I.

SOME RECORDS OF AUTUMN MIGRANTS IN EAST KENT. — The following species were taken in a 125wt m.v. trap at my home address. All were singletons unless otherwise stated, the dates referring to the morning on which the trap was opened. 13th October: *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hübner), 14th October: *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.), *Mythimna albipuncta* (D. & S.), *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner), *Plutella xylostella* (Linn.) — a few. 15th October: *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner), *Rhodometra sacraria* (Linn.), *Mythimna albipuncta* (D. & S.), *Nomophila noctuella* (D. & S.) — a few. 22nd October: *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner). 3rd, 5th and 6th November: *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner). 9th November: ♀ *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.). Throughout all this period, *Autographa gamma* (Linn.) was taken every night. — Dr. I. A. WATKINSON, "Shangarry", 148 The Street, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AL.

RHODOMETRA SACRARIA (L.) IN S.W. IRELAND. — After an indifferent summer with few migratory species recorded, the surprise "invasion" of Southern England by *R. sacraria* came as a welcome boost. This "invasion" has also extended to S.W. Ireland. The writer ran an m.v. trap in his garden at Killarney, Co. Kerry on three successive nights 11th, 12th and 13th October and a total of six *R. sacraria* were obtained, 5 ♀ and a single male. All specimens were of the ochreous brown variety.

Although the 1961 edition of R. South's *Moths of the British Isles* (Vol. 2) states that during the great Vestal year of 1947, the moth was recorded from Killarney, intensive

research by Mr. B. Skinner failed to produce any confirmation of this. It was certainly recorded from Cork during that remarkable year.

The only previous confirmed record for Killarney appears to have been over a century ago, when it was captured there by Edwin Birchall in 1864. Doubtless this little geometrid moth must visit Ireland on occasions, but is passed by unnoticed due to lack of resident collectors in that country. — R. F. HAYNES, Little Dorking, Mill Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

AMATHES AGATHINA DUPONCHEL (HEATH RUSTIC) AT WOKING, SURREY. — It was indeed a welcome surprise to find in my m.v. trap here on the morning of 7th September, 1978 an undoubted example of the Heath Rustic, of which, though this area is surrounded by heathland, no authentic specimen has been recorded for more than 60 years. In fact, it was right back in 1913 that the last Heath Rustics were reported from Woking by R. J. Champion. It appears he obtained the species in the larval form feeding on *Erica tetralix* and bred out seven examples in August of that year. These are now in the collection of the Hope Museum at Oxford, and Prof. G. Varley has kindly supplied me with details about them and others of this insect in their series of it there. It occurs usually where there is deep heather, virtually all over the British Isles even in Orkney and in many parts of Ireland, as well as on other heaths in Surrey such as Frensham, Thursley and Hankley. One wonders, therefore, why it has not appeared at my light trap before, since it has been working here regularly since 1951. A lot of the heathland in the immediate vicinity was severely damaged by fire in the drought of 1976 so that it is very gratifying to know that this noctuid may be staging a return to this district, as I much doubt it can have always been in it and could have been overlooked. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking.

PIERIS BRASSICAE L. f. CATALEUCA ROBER AT LIGHT. — At 11 p.m. on 11th October I found sitting on the outside of my light trap a very large female *P. brassicae*. I kept and set it as a curiosity, and examination shows that, with a wing span of 71mm., very heavy black markings, and yellow underside, it clearly belongs to f. *cataleuca* Rober. This is the constant form of the second and third broods in warm Mediterranean areas from south France east to Cyprus; some years ago I reared (out of doors in Surrey) a long series of it from a batch of eggs collected in April on the French Riviera. It seems probable that my light trap capture was a primary immigrant which was attracted to the light while on nocturnal migration, though I cannot exclude the possibility that it was the daughter of an earlier migrant which had molested my wife's adjacent cabbage patch. I have several times had single specimens of *Vanessa atalanta* L. and *Cynthia cardui* L. at light in the trap or in the field; but I have never before seen *P. brassicae* thus, nor do I know of any report of it as a nocturnal migrant. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Mill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LE.